

MINUTES

BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2006 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE McCLOSKEY CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL, 401 N. MORTON, BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

Roll Call

Members Present: Bob Bent, Susan Brackney, Christine Glaser, George Huntington, Cairril Mills, Darryl Neher, Catherine Stafford, Dave Rollo, John West
Regrets: Keith Clay, John Hamilton, Toby Strout

Staff Present: Danise Alano, Asst. Director of Economic Development
Mike Steinhoff, Intern, Office of the Mayor – BCOS

Call to Order/Approval of Minutes

6:05 Motion by John West to approve both April and May minutes as amended and seconded by Catherine Stafford. Minutes approved unanimously.

Public Comment

None.

Announcements

After having attended a conference on peak oil in Washington D.C., Dave Rollo gives a brief overview of the topics that were presented and about the gravity of the situation and hopeful developments elsewhere such as Sweden's goal to be "oil free" by 2020. A full report to City Council is forthcoming.

George Huntington announces a new publication titled Permaculture Activist has relocated to Bloomington along with Permaculture instructors Peter Bane and Keith Johnson.

Guest: Linda Williamson, Bloomington Economic Development Corporation (BEDC)

The BEDC was incorporated in 1985 serving the surrounding eight county area with the mission statement to "stimulate economic development in order to support the quality of life in Bloomington." The BEDC is focused on the areas of; marketing for the attraction and retention of businesses in Bloomington and sponsors a manufacturers roundtable. In the near future the BEDC plans to work on new workforce development with a new training facility where applicants can have their tuition paid to learn local trades. In this effort, they will be looking at future jobs, assessing the available skills and filling in the gaps. Growth areas will be in life sciences, advanced manufacture, education, tourism and recreation, and information technology. BEDC also sponsors forums for entrepreneurs in Bloomington.

BEDC would like to collaborate with BCOS in benchmarking the local economy by using our indicators. Also through workforce education opportunities, building entrepreneurial culture, and industrial reuse of brownfields like the Otis and ABB facilities.

Q&A

BCOS: What are the possibilities for green businesses such as solar or geothermal companies to fill in the lack of infrastructure and knowledge to capitalize on the energy and emissions crunch?

Linda: Crane is a resource from a standpoint of being a research institute on energy technologies such as their work on lithium batteries. It may be possible to use the issue of air quality non-attainment areas to spur this sector.

BCOS: How often is quality of life a factor in the attraction of businesses?

Linda: Quality of place is a better measure as it is more objective than quality of life which is in the eye of the beholder.

BCOS: What can be done to circle more dollars in Bloomington and create more of an export economy in Bloomington making us more self sufficient.

Linda: In the near term Bloomington is limited by resources on becoming self sufficient and must continue to bring new money in. Again opportunities for building an entrepreneurial culture can help in this area.

BCOS would like to serve by informing the business community about coming opportunities and challenges or to give businesses ideas on how to recycle and reuse items locally.

Committee Reports

1. **Indicators:** The indicators committee first expresses thanks for all of the internal and external input especially from the Environmental Commission, BEDC, and the public.

Public Comment: Linda Williamson (BEDC) inquires about who will be working with the IBRC project, item tabled for the partnerships and resources committee.

Paul Schneller encourages the solicitation of resources at IU in SPEA or the Kelly school for data collection. Also suggests re-titling the first category to include “energy” in the title.

Rick Dietz warns us to make sure that we delegate tasks as necessary and determine a process for re-evaluation of indicators that are static.

Commission Comment: After some discussion about what needs to be added and subtracted, the Commission decides to move forward with the proposal with the intention to develop a protocol for re-evaluation of the indicators each year.

Dave Rollo motions to amend the first indicator to “track CO₂ as per the language of the “U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement”, not TRI which is different. TRI can be tracked as a separate indicator. Motion seconded by John West. Motion approved.

Christine Glazer motions to have category 6 include language that separates the amount of residential, commercial, and mixed-use development. Motion denied on the basis of not being able to measure it.

Christine Glazer motions to have #4 under category 6 to include the number of multi-family units as compared to single-family units. Motion carries.

Catherine moves to call the question and adopt the list of indicators as amended. Motion is seconded by Dave, and the list of indicators is officially adopted.

2. Education:

The Education Committee is sad to announce the resignation of Cairril Mills and requests that another member of the commission enthusiastically steps up to the plate.

The last forum fed into energy options with feasibility and costs & savings as a topic for September with better publicity. Looking at health care as a topic for July and local food for August.

3. Initiatives:

The Deadline for the Call for Ideas has been extended to June 30th. Twelve applications have been submitted to date and will be reviewed with August as the time for official endorsement.

New Business

John urges that work begin on drafting a protocol for a periodic review process of the indicators.

Darryl mentions that formalizing Commission by-laws is upcoming which could include the review protocol within.

Staff Report

Simply Living Fair has requested Showers for their event which has spurred the City to allow more public use of the public space. And on June 27th Danise will be meeting with a K300 statistics class to determine how they will help with data collection and processing.

Motion to adjourn by John West, seconded by Catherine Stafford.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm